

1 AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

2 Claims 1-22 were pending at the time of the Office Action.

3 Claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 8, 11-12, and 16 are amended, claims 19-22 are canceled, and
4 claims 23-26 are new.

5 Claims 1-18 and 23-26 remain pending.

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7 1. (Currently amended) An apparatus, comprising:

8 a membrane including a fiber optic plate configured to direct light from a first
9 side of the membrane to a second side opposite the first side, the first side positioned
10 adjacent to a touchscreen display;

11 a button structure disposed on the second side ~~one surface~~ of the membrane; and

12 a nib corresponding to the button structure and disposed on the first side ~~another~~
13 ~~surface~~ of the membrane, wherein the apparatus is configured to be operatively coupled
14 to ~~[[a]]~~ the touchscreen display so that when a user applies a force to the button structure
15 the nib contacts the touchscreen display so as to activate a virtual button being displayed
16 by the touchscreen display.

17 2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the membrane comprises a
18 flexible and resilient material.

19 3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the button structure comprises a
20 translucent portion.

21 4. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the button structure is
22 configured as a remote control. ~~the membrane comprises a fiber optic plate.~~

23 5. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the button structure
24 comprises a haptic structure configured to emit an audible sound.
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2 6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the button structure is one of a
3 plurality of button structures disposed on the membrane, wherein the plurality of button
4 structures implement a QWERTY keyboard.

5 7. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a lighting
6 device to selectively illuminate the button structure, the lighting device including at least
7 one light emitting diode (LED) and a power source.

8 8. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a
9 redirector device to change a direction of an infrared beam directed onto the redirector
10 device.

11 9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the membrane is sized to be
12 press fitted into a recessed portion of a mobile electronic device, wherein the membrane
13 is disposed within the recess to position the nib in propinquity with the touchscreen
14 display.
15

16 10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a sleeve to contain a
17 mobile electronic device that includes the touchscreen display, wherein the sleeve is to
18 position the nib in propinquity with the touchscreen display.

19 11. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the button structure
20 and nib are slidably fitted to a guide slot in the membrane, the guide slot constraining the
21 button structure and nib along a guide slot path.

1 12. (Currently amended) An apparatus to be operatively coupled to a
2 touchscreen display for operating a virtual button displayed by the touchscreen display,
3 the apparatus comprising:

4 a membrane; and

5 tactile means, coupled to the membrane, for selectively contacting a touchscreen
6 display at a desired location in response to a force exerted on the tactile means by a user,
7 wherein the tactile means further includes a means for slidably contacting the touchscreen
8 display along a pre-determined linear slot.

9 13. (Original) The apparatus of claim 12 wherein the membrane comprises a
10 flexible and resilient material.

11 14. (Original) The apparatus of claim 12 wherein the tactile means comprises a
12 translucent portion.

13 15. (Original) The apparatus of claim 12 wherein the membrane comprises a
14 fiber optic plate.

15 16. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 12 wherein the tactile means
16 comprises a haptic structure configured to emit an audible sound.

17 17. (Original) The apparatus of claim 12 wherein the tactile means comprises a
18 plurality of button structures disposed on the membrane, wherein the plurality of button
19 structures implement a QWERTY keyboard.

20 18. (Original) The apparatus of claim 12 further comprising a lighting device to
21 selectively illuminate a portion of the apparatus.

22 19-22. (Canceled).

1 23. (New) A display overlay, comprising:
2 a flexible membrane;
3 a button structure disposed on one surface of the flexible membrane;
4 a nib corresponding to the button structure and disposed on another surface of the
5 membrane, wherein the apparatus is configured to be operatively coupled to a the
6 touchscreen display so that when a user applies a force to the button structure the nib
7 contacts the touchscreen display so as to activate a virtual button being displayed by the
8 touchscreen display; and

9 a redirector coupled to the flexible membrane, the redirector configured to change
10 a direction of an infrared beam directed onto the redirector.

11 24. (New) The display overlay of claim 23, wherein the button structure includes
12 buttons configured as a remote control.

13 25. (New) The display overview of claim 24, wherein the button structure
14 includes buttons configured as at least one of a universal remote control or a television
15 remote control.

16 26. (New) The display overlay of claim 23, wherein the redirector includes a
17 fiber optic plate with a bend in optical fiber segments that form the fiber optic plate, the
18 bend facilitating the change of direction of the infrared beam.